**Conservation of sacred groves in Karnataka**

1829. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Government seeking financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 lakhs for conservation of sacred groves (Devarakadu) in Kodagu District of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the proposal; and

(c) by when financial assistance is likely to be sanctioned by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government has been requested to submit a revised proposal, along with adequate justification.

**Environment Courts**

1830. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Law Commission has recommended the setting up of "Environment Courts" in all States aimed at decentralizing environmental issues for speedy action; and

(b) if so, the details of the other related major recommendations made by the Law Commission recently and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission, in it's 186th Report, has *inter alia* recommended establishment of separate 'Envionrment Courts' in each State, consisting of judicial and scientific experts in the field of environment, for dealing with environmental disputes besides having appellate jurisdiction in respect of appeals under the various Pollution

Control Laws. The Commission has also recommended for repeal of the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environmental Appellate Authority Act, 1997. The recommendations of the report are under consideration.

**Pollution in rivers and ponds**

†1831. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had provided financial assistance during the last three years for preventing pollution in rivers and ponds in the States;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that States particularly Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh did not spend the full amount of assistance and as a result no progress has been made in preventing pollution and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the action taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government had provided financial assistance to the States for preventing pollution in rivers and lakes under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). The details of the assistance provided under these Plans during the last three financial years, State-wise is given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(c) and (d) Under the NRCP, a total amount of Rs. 49.84 crore has been released to Madhya Pradesh Government as the Central assistance and it has reported to have spent an amount of Rs. 53.87 crore till March, 2004 whereas Rajasthan Government is reported to have spent an amount of Rs. 0.66 crore as against a total Central assistance of Rs. 0.68 crore till March, 2004.

There is no approved scheme under the NLCP in Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, one scheme under NLCP has been approved and the State Government has spent an amount of Rs. 8.82 crore as against a central

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.